

Mr. Mastrup:

In accordance with our previously transmitted resolution we propose that the Fish and Game Commission adopt a policy to establish comprehensive Strategic and Management Plans for major watersheds in California, with emphasis on those ecosystems which are currently estimated to have healthy runs of anadromous fish (i.e., "salmon strongholds)." We further propose that these plans be implemented by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Why do this?

"Establishing appropriate fish and wildlife resource management rules" is probably the most important part of the "Mission" of the F&G Commission, and one which, at the moment, does not appear to be happening. We make this statement based on the simple fact that there is no system in place currently to count returning anadromous fish. As has been stated before, DFW cannot "manage" what it cannot or does not count.

What needs to be done:

Without scientific data, DFW can only react to crises as they occur. Examples are drought, low water conditions, poor runs of fish, *no* runs of fish, over-fishing (angling pressure), snagging, netting, and etc. A Management Plan for a given watershed should therefore include measurable goals and objectives, must be carried out by those in DFW who will be held accountable for the success of the plan; and monitored for achievement by the Commission. From what we can determine, this is not happening now -- there are no long term plans, no goals, no measurement and therefore no accountability.

What will be accomplished:

The main thing that will be accomplished by establishing long-term Management Plans for major watersheds is to assist both the F&G Commission and the DFW to achieve their following two "Resource Sustainability" goals:

- 1) Determine the current status of California fish and wildlife resources and the ecosystems that are needed to support them.
- 2) Based on an annual resource assessment [to be scientifically measured], develop resource management policies that meet the Mission of the Commission and assure the sustainability of California's fish and wildlife resources.

These sustainability goals should be measurable (based on scientific data), and should carry accountability.

We ask that this proposal be made an agenda topic for the Commission at its June meeting in Fortuna. If helpful, we would be pleased to assist in providing a tour of important parts of the Smith River before the Commission's meeting.

Charles Bucaria
For the Northern California Council
Federation of Fly Fishers
(916) 392-4583